

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-30, 32, and 34-38 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-8, 10-15, 18, 20-24, 26-28, 32, and 34-35 are amended, claims 36-38 are added, and claims 3, 6, 31, and 33 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims and the drawings. Withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 9-15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. New claim 38 is allowable claim 9 written in independent form, and thus should be in condition for allowance. However, for the reasons set forth below, claims 10-15 have not been rewritten in independent form at this time.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-8 and 17-35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,412,417 to Tozuka. Claims 3, 6, 31, and 33 are cancelled. The rejection, in so far as it applies to the remaining claims, is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a first connecting link configured to be rotatably coupled at a first end thereof to the main body, and rotatably coupled at a second end thereof to a second connecting link, wherein the second connecting link is configured to be rotatably coupled at a first end thereof to the first connecting link, and rotatably coupled at a second end thereof to the image device unit, and independent claim 35 recites, *inter alia*, wherein the linking

device comprises a first link with a first end thereof rotatably connected to the main body, and a second end thereof rotatably connected to a first end of a second link, and wherein a second end of the second link is rotatably connected to the image device. Tozuka neither discloses nor suggests such features, or the claimed combination(s).

Tozuka discloses a video telephone device 10 which uses a parallel link mechanism to tiltably mount a video display unit 13 with a display panel 22 to a base 12, and a video camera unit 14 with a video camera 23 to the display unit 13. A pair of pivot pins 26 project horizontally from the panel 22 into vertical ends 28 of the base 12, thereby tiltably coupling the display unit 13 and the base 12. Another pivot pin 37 extends horizontally from the panel 22 and into a hole 36 formed in a camera mount 29 portion of the camera unit 14, thereby pivotably coupling the camera unit 14 to the display unit 13. A link 41 positioned to the rear of the display panel 22 connects the base 12 and the camera mount 29 at pivot pins 43 and 40 positioned to the rear of pivot pins 26 and 37, respectively.

A user may initially adjust a camera angle by rotating the camera unit 14 about a pair of pivot pins 32 extending from the camera mount 29 into the camera unit 14, and as the display unit 13 is tilted relative to the base 12, the parallel link mechanism formed by the four sets of pivot pins 26, 37, 43, and 40 (see column 4, lines 28–42 of Tozuka) maintains the initial camera angle, regardless of the angle of the display unit 13 relative to the base 12, as shown in Figure 9 of Tozuka. Tozuka discloses only one link 41 which connects the base 12 to the camera mount 29, and neither discloses nor suggests any link which may be positioned between the link 41 and

- the camera mount 29. Thus, Tozuka neither discloses nor suggests a second link which rotatably couples the first link and the image device unit, as recited in independent claims 1 and 35.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 35 are not anticipated by Tozuka, and thus the rejection of independent claims 1 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Tozuka should be withdrawn. Rejected dependent claims 2, 4-5, 7-8, 17-21, 30, 32, and 34, as well as objected to claims 9-15 and newly added claims 36-37, are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 1 and 35, from which they respectively depend, as well as for their added features.

Independent claim 22 recites, *inter alia*, a connecting link having one end thereof connected to the main body spaced apart from a center of rotation of the display body and the other end thereof connected to a link connecting portion configured to rotatably couple the connecting link and the image device unit, and spaced apart from a center of rotation of the image device unit so as to rotatably couple the main body and the image device unit. Further, independent claim 26 recites, *inter alia*, a first pivot point positioned at the main body, a second pivot point positioned at the image device unit, and a third pivot point positioned along a link structure coupling the first and second pivot points. As set forth above, Tozuka neither discloses nor suggests such features.

More specifically, Tozuka discloses a single link 41 which extends between the base 12 and the camera mount 29, and neither discloses nor suggests that an end of the link is connected to a link connecting portion which rotatably couples the link to an image device unit, as recited

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in independent claim 22. Further, the pivot pins 43 and 40 at the ends of the link 41 rotatably couple the camera unit 14 to the base 12, and Tozuka neither discloses nor suggests a third pivot point positioned along the link structure so as to couple the first and second pivot points, as recited in independent claim 26.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 22 and 26 are not anticipated by Tozuka, and thus the rejection of independent claims 22 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Tozuka should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 23-25 and 27-29 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 22 and 26, from which they respectively depend, as well as for their added features.

The Office Action rejects claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Tozuka in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,829,011 to Higuchi et al. (hereinafter “Higuchi”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claim 16 is allowable over Tozuka at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, from which it depends, as well as for its added features. Further, Higuchi is merely cited to teach a sliding door to protect a camera lens, and thus fails to overcome the deficiencies of Tozuka. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 16 is allowable over the applied combination, and thus the rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Tozuka and Higuchi should be withdrawn.

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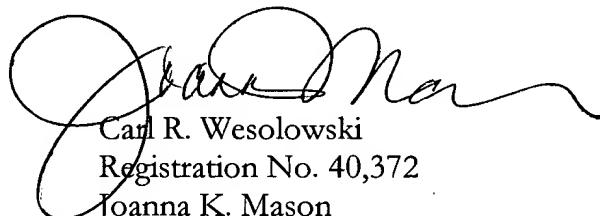
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, **JOANNA K. MASON**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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